

Restoring Health Care as A MINISTRY

Evaluating and integrating healing methodologies
according to biblical and spiritual principles

And THE PRIEST shall look at the mark on the
skin of the body, and if the hair in the infection has
turned white and the infection appears to be deeper
than the skin of his body...he shall pronounce....

Leviticus 13:3

by

Mark and Patti Virkler
and Dr. Reuben T. DeHaan

Disclaimer:

The information and procedures contained in this book are based upon the research and the personal and professional experiences of the authors. They are not intended as a substitute for consulting with your physician or other health care provider. The publisher and author are not responsible for any adverse effects or consequences resulting from the use of any of the suggestions, preparations, or procedures discussed in this book. All matters pertaining to your physical health should be supervised by a health care professional. It is a sign of wisdom, not cowardice, to seek a second or third opinion.



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Foreword

The world of natural and integrative medicine is a new and ever-changing science. The western medical community has neglected to recognize natural/integrative medicine as a valid form of treatment for disease. Fortunately, the patient, known in the politically correct context as a 'health care consumer,' is demanding in many areas the application of alternative in the context of a traditional medical setting. This has now forced many 'listening' physicians to obtain this type of training that was not available in their conventional medical education. As a result, the advent of a new and up-and-coming model of health care has emerged.

Medicine, even in its traditional construct, is a rapidly changing science, and physicians are compelled to stay in the race with its advancements so that they can never be successfully accused of breaching the 'standard of care.' Thankfully, however, a new standard is being developed. While not all physicians are complying with the newer model of medicine that we shall examine, many are moving in this direction.

I was formally trained in "Integrative Medicine" at the Southern Graduate Institute and Saint Luke School of Medicine. This was my first professional doctorate degree and came at a very timely occasion in my clinical practice. I was a family medicine nurse practitioner in private practice in an underserved area. Patients were coming to see me demanding alternatives to the traditional medical regimens that they were placed on. As a consequence to meeting their needs, I began searching for training.

This program's name "Integrative Medicine" is the politically correct term, if you please, for the new and emerging model for health

care among many medical practices throughout the United States. It embraces the integration of natural medicine, to include: botanical medicine, homeopathy, clinically applied nutrition, soft tissue and bone manipulation, oriental medicine, and naturopathic medicine with traditional western medicine in a comprehensive approach to disease management.

The premise of those medical providers that are trained in this model is that traditional medicine has its primary utility in “acute disease” management. This spans from emergency medical-surgical/trauma to acute medical illness. For example: Ms. Jones comes into my office with a dangerously elevated blood pressure of 230\105. She has a history of kidney disease and a fatty liver. She further complains of intermittent retrosternal chest pain and shortness of breath but says she is ‘o.k. for now.’

This lady is at extraordinary risk for myocardial infarction or stroke. The integrative model would approach the patient like this: temporarily prescribe a medicine that will safely lower her blood pressure and keep her from a catastrophic event. Then, as her blood pressure begins to be brought into a safe range, aggressively integrate diet change (i.e., Genesis diet), lifestyle modification (stress reduction and regular exercise), and finally the integration of natural/nutritional substances with antihypertensive properties (intravenous chelation, ubiquinone, cratagus, taraxacum officinale, passifora incarnata, parsley leaf, forskohlii, mineral therapy, etc.) in therapeutic doses so that over a period of time, she may be able to be slowly weaned off of the blood pressure medicine or kept at the lowest possible dose while protecting the body from any potential side effects with the appropriate application of natural medicine.

We do know of other herbal preparations that can dramatically and quickly drop blood pressure, however, at the cost of potentially causing grave damage to the kidneys and liver. An example of this is the herb mistletoe. In this particular case explained above, indiscriminate use of mistletoe could have caused a lethal toxic effect to her kidneys and liver since she had both kidney and liver disease already. The nutritional/natural substances, when used properly, would slowly and safely drop the blood pressure and allow for gradual weaning off of the medicine.

This model is very effective and has been one that I have used for a number of years now. Unfortunately, it does not place enough emphasis on the spiritual dimension of disease, and when it does, this new integrative model of medicine allows for the wide interpretation of 'spiritual.' In this universal integrative medical model, this spiritual dimension could span from New Age to various forms of occult philosophy and anything in between to address the emotional/spiritual component of the whole person. Therefore, if a patient has a sin problem and/or demonic problem that is contributing to the cause of the disease, then allowance for the occult philosophy in this model will leave the person in a diseased condition. The protocol that you propose is refreshingly innovative in its approach to the whole person. Its founding cornerstone is the Great Physician, the Lord Jesus.

Miklos Major II I.M.D. (Doctorate in Integrative Medicine -
St. Luke School of Medicine)

Introduction

This is Mark and Patti's fourth book on health and healing. Our first one, entitled *Eden's Health Plan - Go Natural!*, is our foundational book on health and shows you many things you can do to improve and maintain your health. By following it, you should be able to avoid the major degenerative diseases from which most westerners die. You should be able to die in good health by just drifting off in your sleep to be with the Lord. You should also learn enough from that book to restore vibrant health if you should become sick.

The second book is *Health Mastery Through MRT*, which shows how your body can communicate to you, telling you how it is doing, where it is weak and what it needs to be made strong again. This gives you a fantastic diagnostic tool, allowing you to always know the condition of your body and what your body is asking for in order to fix itself.

The third book is *Prayers That Heal the Heart*, containing seven different prayer approaches which cut off the negative spiritual energies within a person that can and do produce poor health. Much poor physical health is the direct result of poor health in one's spirit or soul. Once the spirit and soul are healed, the body is automatically restored.

Now for this book, our fourth on health, *Restoring Health Care as A MINISTRY*. This may be a new idea for many, as it was for me. It had never crossed my mind that health care was a ministry or that I should compare health care methodologies to the Bible. I suppose there were several reasons for my ignorance.

First of all, I viewed health care as secular, not spiritual. I saw being a doctor as a secular job, not a ministry. When a doctor went to medical school it was a secular school, where he learned secular things. He was not supposed to take his Bible or the voice of God into medical school. This was secular. I had cut health care off from the Healer of the universe! My view was that if one wanted to minister, he would go to a Bible school and become a pastor or missionary. If one wanted a secular job such as being a doctor, he could go to a secular school to learn his profession.

It took awhile for it to dawn upon me that God was the greatest Health Care Professional in the universe! He knows more about how to get people healed than anyone else. And when God gets involved in health care Himself, I realized He is not switching to His secular job. God was still in ministry mode!

So the walls in my heart were beginning to crumble. No longer did I see a sacred/secular split, but I recognized that the earth was the Lord's and the fullness thereof (Ps. 24:1).

My second reason for not comparing health care methodologies to the Bible was that, since I grew up surrounded by hospitals and doctors and traditional medicine, and my parents, my pastor and my church all believed in them, it never occurred to me that perhaps I should question whether traditional health care was biblical. It just had to be right. Everyone I respected accepted it.

Therefore, health care was an area I just never compared to Scripture. I don't know about you, but my guess is that many Christians in the West have never asked the question, "Is contemporary health care compatible with biblical principles?"

Well, we are going to ask that question in this book, and try to answer it to the best of our ability. The answers I found were startling - shocking - unbelievable. They have caused me to pursue a different path for my own personal health and healing, examining all biblical, traditional and alternative health care methodologies and using those which are compatible with biblical principles.

This book is a summary of some of what I have found. I hope it is meaningful and helpful to you.

We have asked Reuben DeHaan, a close friend, to assist us in writing Chapter Six. Reuben is extremely skilled in helping people discover how to nourish and cleanse their bodies so they are re-

turned to maximum health. Reuben maintains his own clinic and travels widely, teaching on natural health. He founded and currently functions as president of Health Care Ministry International, an organization geared to solving health complaints God's way, and training others to do the same. Health Care Ministry International's motto is "Embrace complete healing." You may find him on the web at www.hcmionline.com.

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The Challenges of Traditional Health Care

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Conscientious Doctors and Nurses Are a Blessing

Before I begin, I want to make it clear that I am not against anyone, especially conscientious, moral, ethical doctors or nurses. I respect and thank them for their lives of service to our communities and us. The ability of western medicine to restore a body after an accident is wonderful, and something I would receive with gratitude, should it ever be necessary. Penicillin has been a tremendous benefit to nations around the world, and we are all grateful for it. Doctors have

set broken bones for my family and me. When in a dentist's chair, I happily accept Novocain. I am extremely thankful for the labor of love and valid research done by many doctors of western medicine. May their lives be blessed.

For much of my life, I implicitly believed in medical doctors, drugs, surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and annual exams. Without questioning, I accepted that these were all compatible with Scripture. Let's examine them and see if they really are.

Doctors and the Hippocratic Oath

Doctors around the world are required to take the Hippocratic Oath. I have spoken with Christian doctors in both the United States and New Zealand who have told me they took the Hippocratic Oath even though they felt uncomfortable doing so.

Hippocrates (460-377 B.C.) was the Father of Modern Medicine, his principles forming the basis for the medical theory developed in the 1800's. The Hippocratic Oath can be found in most encyclopedias. Following is the first sentence of the classical Hippocratic Oath:

"I swear by Apollo, the physician, and Asclepius and Health and All-Heal and all the gods and goddesses that, according to my ability and judgment, I will keep this oath and stipulation..."

Hence, some doctors began their practice by taking an oath to all false gods and goddesses in the universe.

The Bible discourages taking oaths at all, specifically oaths to a strange god.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (Ex. 20:3)

If a Christian doctor has taken this oath, he definitely needs to repent, ask God's forgiveness, and renounce the vow. An updated version of the Oath which omits any mention of the gods is now in use in many medical schools. A doctor may want to purpose by the power of the Spirit of God to take this new one. Let the Spirit give you wisdom.

I realize that not all doctors have taken this oath. It is said at graduation ceremonies but attendance at these ceremonies is not required,

so some doctors choose not to go and not to take the pledge. Other doctors are now refusing to take it because they intend to perform abortions, an act that would violate the Hippocratic Oath.

The emblem of western medicine - the “Caduceus”

The caduceus (kuh-doo'-see-uhs), a widely accepted symbol for the medical profession, was the wand of Hermes, Greek god of chance and messenger of the Olympian deities. The wand, made of olive wood and gold, was entwined with serpents and surmounted by wings. It possessed magical powers. This wand was reported to have been originally used to put people into hypnotic states so they could be visited by the “gods.” It was established as the symbol of the U.S. Surgeon General’s office in 1871, and is still used to this day. Check your encyclopedia for confirmation of these details.

Surely it is wrong for Christians to use as the emblem of their profession a symbol which was created to assist in the worship of a Greek god. It is not a requirement that doctors use the Caduceus symbol, and some have chosen not to do so.

Nude examinations

Currently in vogue in western medicine is the routine giving of breast exams, pelvic exams, and rectal exams. This is often done by male doctors on female patients, women who are other men’s wives. The doctor says, “Take off your clothes,” and the client does. Do you give that kind of authority to anyone else? Some cultures in the world only allow female doctors to treat female patients. That strikes me as a wise course of action.

The Bible has 22 references to uncovering another’s nakedness; most of them are in reference to uncovering the nakedness of a relative.

None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: I am the LORD. (Lev. 18:6)

In the following verse, having one’s nakedness uncovered is connected with shame and with the hand of God’s judgment.

Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man. (Is. 47:3)

Although the above biblical references may allude to actual intercourse, it is clear from Scripture that God nowhere ever gave male doctors the right to handle a female's private parts. Obviously issues of lust (which is a sin - Matt. 5:28) will loom large in any situation where a man is viewing and handling the female body.

I am shocked by the callousness of some doctors and nurses in hospitals concerning nudity. Once, while making a pastoral hospital visit on a parishioner scheduled for surgery, I was shocked to walk through the open door of her room to find her face down on her bed, completely nude, the curtain around her bed and the door to her room both wide open for any to see. She had been prepped for surgery and left by the nurses, fully exposed and vulnerable to anyone walking by. I immediately turned on my heel and left without her being embarrassed at knowing that I was even there. Is this kind of callous disregard for modesty and dignity what the Lord has ordained? Would YOU leave a person under your care exposed and naked and vulnerable for all to see? It would never cross my mind to do such a thing! Would it yours? What kind of crudeness and evil allows one to behave in such an ungodly manner?

Now let's move to drugs, poisoning, pharmakeia, and witchcraft.

Definition of "drug"

According to Webster, a drug is "any substance used as or in a medicine."

The FDA's definition of a drug is: "1) a substance recognized in an official pharmacopoeia; or 2) a substance intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease; or 3) a substance other than food intended to affect the structure or function of the body."

There is a great distinction between synthetic, man-made drugs and natural, God-given herbs. My preference is always to go with God's natural herbs rather than man's "improved" drugs. Often man's "improvements" are caustic and have numerous harmful, poisonous side effects, as countless people can testify. Hundreds of thousands of people die every year from the poisoning effects of modern drugs. I

will give you some actual statistics on adverse drug reactions before the end of this chapter.

About 50% of the modern drugs created by pharmaceutical companies are created in the following fashion: Research scientists identify an ingredient in a plant which has healing properties. They strip away the other compounds God placed in this herb as buffers, then isolate and multiply the essential healing ingredient of the herb. This makes it more potent, so that we can get a “quick fix.” However, the buffers which have been stripped away are often the ingredients which God included to keep the herb from being caustic and destructive to the human body. Thus man’s drugs tend to kill, while God’s original herbs heal.

In order to patent a drug, scientists must alter the molecular structure a bit. You see, herbs cannot be patented because they are natural compounds. So a drug is an altered substance not found in nature and foreign to our bodies. Our bodies are not equipped by God to handle these drugs. That is why there are so many adverse reactions and deaths in people taking drugs prescribed by modern medicine.

When you hear an advertisement for a new drug on television, they are careful to tell you that you can’t take it if you have a weak liver or weak kidneys, and it may cause headache, stomach upset, loose bowels, seizures, high blood pressure, and so on. Why would I want to put something in my body that is so toxic to my system? Is that really God’s plan, or is it man’s alternative?

A biblical perspective on drugs

The biblical perspective on drugs may be discovered by examining the various forms of the Greek word *pharmakeia*, the word from which we get pharmacy and pharmacist, which, of course, are our sources of drugs. Following are the various forms of the word *pharmakeia*, the exact definition from *Strong’s Concordance* and the verses in the New Testament where the word appears.

pharmakeia (*Strong’s Concordance* #5331 medication, “pharmacy,” i.e. by extension magic, sorcery, witchcraft)

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry,